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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2, INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

30613 /
TOP SECRET CONTROL
A. C. OF S., G-2, DA

G2-I

14 MAY 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHAIRMAN, INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Spitzbergen

1. It is recommended that an Intelligence Estimate be initiated on, "The Prospect of Increased Soviet Activity in the Spitzbergen Area."

2. Reference is made to a memorandum from this office dated 6 November 1950, subject: "Exploitation of Spitzbergen for United States Intelligence" (IAC-D-5, 24 November 1950). After action by the IAC, information was requested of the Norwegian Government (IAC-D-5/2, 5 December 1950). The reply to this request (SO DB-34930, 12 February 1951) was made available to interested agencies, and indicated that there was no unusual or widespread Soviet activity in the area.

3. The following, however, are significant factors bearing on the possibility of the U.S.S.R. taking action in the Spitzbergen area in the near future;

a. The strategic location of Spitzbergen, in view of its possible use, either by the U.S.S.R. or the Western Powers, as an air base.

b. The establishment of U.S. security detachments in Ioeland.

c. The proposed establishment of other U.S. air bases.

d. The reported Russian activity in the Coles Bay, Spitzbergen, area to prepare for handling of ocean-going ships.

e. Increased activity reported at Bohemanneset, Spitzbergen - a potential Russian airfield site.

f. The possible use of glaciers as landing grounds.

Army review(s) completed.

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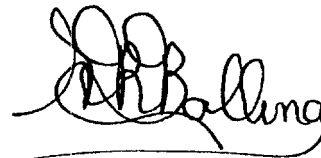
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7 MAY 1951

SUBJECT: Spitzbergen

g. Suspected overland exploration by the Russians between Coles Bay, Spitzbergen and Billefjord, Spitzbergen in the winter of 1949/50.

h. Russian fishing activity off the coast of Western Spitzbergen in July 1950.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. B. Balling", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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